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Cressida Returns From Many Adventures

THE ODYSSEY OF A MERLIN

LONDONERS in the Kensington district have been surprised recently to see a merlin perched on her master's hand, unconcernedly preening her feathers amid the roar of the traffic. Had they heard the tale of the bird's adventures they would have been even more surprised, for the merlin, during the last few years, has travelled thousands of miles and enjoys the rare distinction of having its adventurous career chronicled in the records of the Imperial War Museum.

The story, so far as we are concerned, began in October 1942, when a young merlin, a species of falcon hawk, damaged a wing and landed near the Devil's Beef Tub, not far from Moffat, in Dumfriesshire. Lieutenant Summers, of the Sherwood Foresters, then on leave from his platoon, captured the falcon and tended her till the injured wing was better. Then, finding that the bird had grown attached to him, he decided to adopt her as a pet. He christened her Cressida, after one of Shakespeare's heroines. When her master rejoined his regiment in Kent Cressida went with him.

Unruffled in Battle

Lieutenant Summers was later drafted abroad with the 46th (North Midland) Division and, of course, Cressida accompanied him. In the heavy fighting in North Africa Cressida showed the utmost composure. Machine-gun bullets left her completely unruffled as she sat quietly beside her master during the heat of the battle.

When Lieutenant Summers was wounded Cressida was also slightly wounded in the wing, and they were both captured at Tunis. Together they were flown over to Italy, and together they remained for some time as patients in German and Italian hospitals.

To the German guards at the prisoner-of-war camps Cressida

remained a puzzle. Some suspected that she might be a kind of carrier pigeon; others thought that she was a parrot. Cressida herself remained entirely at ease in any change of surroundings. During the two years in which she was shifted from camp to camp, through North Italy to Bologna, and then through Austria and Czechoslovakia to Brunswick, she stayed with her master, making herself at home wherever she went. Many a British prisoner-of-war was cheered and heartened by the sight of the merlin's trim figure airily winging her way through the camp, and, however meagre the rations might be, there was always a morsel to spare for Cressida.

Eventually Cressida and her master were liberated by the Americans at Brunswick a month before the end of the war in Europe, and, still together, they were flown back to Britain by the R.A.F. Now Lieutenant Summers has been demobbed, and Cressida, considering herself demobbed as well, has celebrated her return to civilian life by making war on the mice in her master's smallholding.

But her wanderings are not yet at an end. Soon Mr Summers hopes to go out to Tanganyika to take up farming, and Cressida, of course, will also go. All bird lovers will wish bon voyage to Cressida, as valiant and loyal a bird as ever flew.

"RING OUT THE OLD"

BELLS like those which once more ring out the Old and ring in the New as 1946 gives way to 1947 have been sounding in our belfries since Saxon times.

It is generally believed that Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, first brought church bells into this country from Italy in 680, though they were probably in use in Scotland and Ireland at an earlier date.

Church records often contain interesting details connected with bells. One such story concerns a parishioner who left money in his will for the purchase of a bell which need not necessarily be in tune provided it was "loud and heard far." The records of the Church of St Laurence, Reading, mention a dedication service for a new bell "named Harry" at which two people stood as godparents to the bell (a common custom in those days). What is more im-

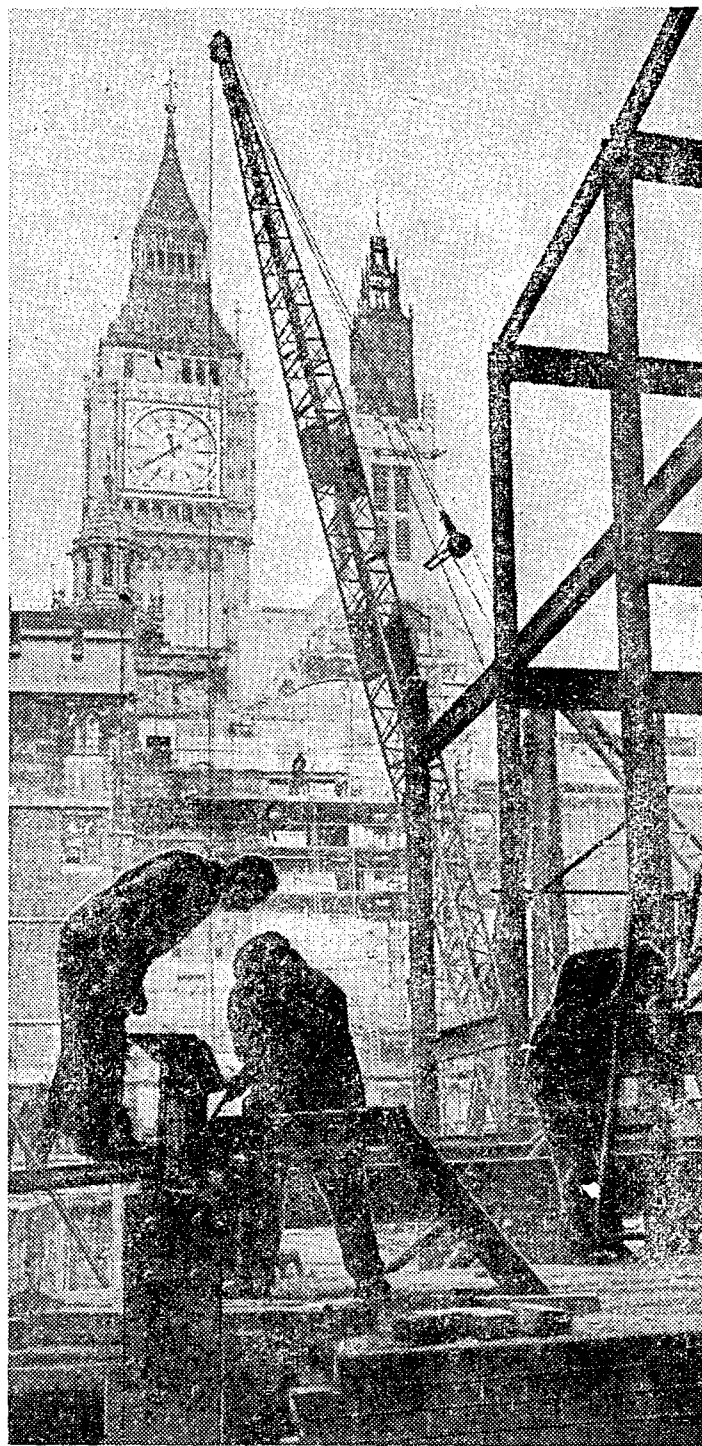
portant, they also stood the bill!

Many bells carry inscriptions similar to that on a bell at Great Ashfield in Suffolk, which reads: "Pull on, brave boys, I am metal to the backbone, but will be hanged before I break." And upon another Suffolk bell can be read this verse:

*I toll the funeral bell,
I ring the festal day,
I mark the fleeting hours,
And chime to church to pray.*

As the bells ring out on this New Year's Eve, the thoughts of many go back to the grim war-time days when church bells were silent, and when many bell-ringers feared that the ban on bell-ringing might cause them to lose their skill in this intricate art. It is on record that bell-ringers of at least one village removed the clappers from their bells so that they could continue to practise without breaking regulations!

NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS



Rebuilding at Westminster

THE picture above shows builders busy working on the steel framework of the new House of Commons which is to take the place of the old one destroyed by a German bomb in 1940—just 100 years after its foundations were laid.

Big Ben can be seen in the background, for the New House is being erected on the original site of the old building, and the steel skeleton is rising from the original foundations, which are six feet thick.

The new building has been designed by one of Britain's most distinguished architects, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, O.M., with Dr Oscar Faber as consulting en-

gineer. The appearance of the House, when it is finished, will be in harmony with the other Parliament buildings, which were designed in the Gothic style.

Inside the new Chamber the seating accommodation for Members will be the same as in the old, but there will be more space for "strangers," as visitors who come to hear debates in Parliament are called, and also more room for representatives of the Press.

It is hoped that the New House of Commons will be completed in three years, and that the opening ceremony will take place in 1950—ten years after its predecessor was destroyed.

THE UNWELCOME OPOSSUM

A New Zealand Pest

So many furry immigrants have made their homes in the New Zealand bush that a special Wildlife Branch of the Internal Affairs Department is having a busy time finding out about their feeding and breeding habits.

Opossums introduced from Australia rank high on the list of pests in the New Zealand bush, for they cause much damage to trees, and are natural enemies of the native birds. Young opossums, known as kittens, are carried in the mother's pouch, like so many young Australian animals. As they grow older they are carried on their father's back.

Since experimental trapping has been carried out by Wildlife officers they have caught hundreds of opossums, as well as rats and stoats. How best to protect the bush and the birds from invaders is the main task of the Wildlife officers of New Zealand.

MIND THE HUMP

IN America there are large numbers of railway level-crossings without protecting gates as in this country, and it is not surprising that accidents are quite common and that many kinds of warning notices have been put up. One plan which has been the means of reducing accidents in many States has been the formation of a "hump" across the road. This is a ridge about six inches above the level of the highway, with sides sloping gradually, about a hundred yards from the level-crossing.

Some two hundred yards before the motorist reaches the hump a warning is given that he should proceed very slowly. If he heeds this the hump can be negotiated easily, but should he continue to rush ahead his car is brought up with a tremendous shock which is exceedingly bad for its works as well as its passengers.

We might do worse than try out this hump obstruction to slow down traffic at danger points in our streets over here.

Good Samaritans

THE Swiss have kindly hearts. The other day the Minister of Pensions received an offer from the Don Suisse, a charitable organisation, to provide at its own cost accommodation in sanatoria at Leysin, Switzerland, for the treatment of a hundred British ex-Servicemen suffering from tuberculosis. This offer has been accepted, and the first party is leaving almost at once.

In the fine Swiss air, and with expert treatment, a hundred men who fought and suffered for Britain will find new hope among the big-hearted people who look beyond their national border to do good.

Here is an instance of the sort of international spirit of which the world has so much need.

HIGH HOPES FOR 1947

Some Real Achievements at New York

THE progress that was made in the cause of world peace at New York as 1946 drew to a close will, by the disposal of so many of our doubts and anxieties, make that year memorable in the history of our times.

Homeward bound from the New York meeting of the Foreign Ministers and the United Nations General Assembly, the three Foreign Secretaries, Mr Bevin, Mr Molotov, and Mr Byrnes, knew they would enjoy this second Christmas after the end of the war in a mood which had long been unknown by Allied statesmen.

And no wonder. After eighteen months of hard bargaining the first signposts leading toward a more stable and durable peace at last stood clearly erected. The work of the Foreign Ministers' Conference has been crowned with the settling of peace treaties with Germany's ex-allies and agreement to hold talks on Germany herself in Moscow next March. In the General Assembly of the United Nations the road to peace was marked by agreement on such fundamental questions as disarmament, trusteeship, the use of veto, and the creation of an organisation dealing with the vast refugee problem.

It is not surprising that this great progress of peace talks was greeted by Mr Bevin on his boarding the Queen Elizabeth on the way to England in these words: "The four Foreign Ministers have cleared away a good deal of the debris of misunderstanding and conflict. We can now proceed to lay the foundations of a durable peace. The sun of peace is rising. May 1947 see it come out in all fullness."

Future Tasks

Where do we stand, therefore, at the beginning of 1947, with mankind's progress to peace and plenty?

In a few months' time, when peace with Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Finland is signed, the Foreign Ministers will begin to tackle the peace treaty with Germany. It will not be an easy task. However, the pitfalls and difficulties of peace-making experienced during the past year will have certainly shown the necessity for caution and restraint. And beyond the peace treaty with Germany lies, perhaps, a better

future for many a nation in Central and Eastern Europe, for it is clear that peaceful Germany can, and should, contribute much to the reconstruction of the countries warrior Germany has ravaged.

But making peace treaties is not the only task in front of the United Nations. The most important single question outside this problem is undoubtedly disarmament. To achieve it is, in fact, the foremost task of the United Nations, because without disarmament there can be no stable peace. History has shown that armaments always lead to wars, and there is no reason to suppose that if nations started arming on a large scale now, a war could be avoided in the future.

Disarmament Talks

But there is one difference between past wars and a possible future war. The atomic bomb, rockets, gas, and bacteriological warfare have all shown the possibilities of killing vast masses of human beings with a single blow. This has instilled horror in statesmen and common people alike, and more than any other factor, perhaps, may have been the cause of some real progress in the disarmament talks in New York. Let us make no mistake, however; we have covered no more than a few yards on the long road leading to the abolition of weapons of mass destruction of life. Still, an auspicious beginning has been made. To start with, the disarmament plan to be drawn up by the Security Council will deal with the threat of the atomic bomb and all other methods of atomic energy for peace, and will set up an impartial international inspection of armaments. Finally, the Security Council will hurry on the formation of its own forces and deal with reduction of national armed forces.

This is the formidable list of tasks to be done in 1947 in the sphere of disarmament only. Let us hope that this year will see still greater progress in this most ambitious attempt to put an end to wars.

Walt Disney and Uncle Remus

IN *Song of the South*, his latest offering to the cinema, Walt Disney combines his "live" characters and the cartoon sequences to such a point of blended perfection as to make this one of the best things he has done, writes a CN film correspondent.

This new Disney technique of combining the live with the animated characters was used before in his *Three Caballeros*, but not in the brilliant manner seen in *Song of the South*.

The story has a background of the cotton-growing Southern States; and a small, lonely boy, neglected somewhat by his parents, finds life anew through the medium of a wise old darkie, Uncle Remus, who tells him the well-loved stories of Brer Rabbit

and his old enemies, Brer Fox and Brer Bear.

When Uncle Remus breaks into story, so the film breaks into the cartoon sequences. The Technicolor backgrounds of an old Southern plantation are some of the loveliest I have seen, while the characterisation of the wise old darkie servant, Uncle Remus, is beautifully done by a Negro actor, James Baskett. Bobby Driscoll and Launa Patten head a talented cast of young players who give just the right interpretation to their screen parts.

Brer Rabbit is a cheeky personality, and all the cartoon figures have just that comic and cunning touch that only Disney could give. In fact, in the recurring phrase of Uncle Remus, "Everything is satisfactory."

Unrra's Proud Record

FOR the past two years Unrra—the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration—has been the world's army of mercy in dealing with humanity's distress, as a result of the war.

The United Nations Assembly has now decided that Unrra shall cease to exist, handing over its tasks to more permanent organisations.

By the end of 1946 Unrra had spent £650,000,000, and distributed 14 million tons of supplies. It has not been able to prevent starvation either in Austria or China, the two worst areas, but it has kept up the food requirements of thousands of people who would otherwise have suffered in misery.

In Polish streets, when the lady in the Unrra uniform appears she is greeted with cries of "Aunty Unrra." In many children's homes and orphanages

A GOOD RESOLUTION

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IF no newsagent is available the CN can be sent to any address in the British Isles for 17s 4d a year, or for 15s 2d overseas. In this case please send a cheque, postal order, or International money order to The Amalgamated Press, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, EC4.

in that country all the children wear clothes provided by Unrra. There are over two million orphan children in Poland.

Many people prophesied widespread epidemics of disease, and even plague, as a result of the war. The fact that this has not happened is largely due to the tireless activities of Unrra's doctors, nurses, and welfare workers, who have established temporary hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics in all the distressed countries. It will be a hard task for the new World Health Organisation to take up all Unrra's health work, and yet, if the world is to be free from epidemics, it must be done.

Another efficient work of this army of mercy has been its help to Displaced Persons. Over 800,000 of these wandering people, evicted from their homes by the tides of war, have been gathered into Unrra's camps, fed, clothed, and lodged until new homes could be found for them. Eventually this service will be performed by the International Refugee Organisation, but Unrra will continue its work until June 1947.

Industrial reconstruction has also been an Unrra concern. Loans and credits, for example, have been given to Greece and Italy to help them to get the wheels of industry turning again. Greece's agriculture, too, has been helped with lavish hand.

The story of Unrra is a story of great things attempted and great things done.

WORLD NEWS REEL

UNO'S HOME. Mr John D. Rockefeller's generous offer of £2,125,000 to buy property in Manhattan (New York) for the headquarters of the United Nations has been accepted.

A motion has been introduced in the Northern Rhodesia Legislative Council calling for the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

South Africa's plan to annex South-West Africa has been rejected by the UN General Assembly, which has called on the Union Government to hand over this Mandated territory for trusteeship.

CATS NOT ADMITTED. An Australian ex-Serviceman has applied for a loan to establish a travelling mouse circus.

There are to be two additional public holidays in South Africa this year: February 17, the day the King and Queen arrive at Capetown, and April 21, Princess Elizabeth's 21st birthday.

Serum taken from adults convalescing from infantile paralysis in this country was flown to Poland in an effort to save the life of a baby.

MAGNA CARTA. The Lacock Abbey copy of Magna Carta, one of the four original copies, has been loaned for two years to the Library of Congress in Washington.

Denmark has reported the biggest harvest of grain, potatoes, and beet for 12 years.

Australian nurses are "adopting" Austrian nurses and supplying them with uniforms, soap, and other useful things.

GREAT DANE. The Astronomer-Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, and Professor Stratton, of Cambridge, were the British representatives at the commemoration at Copenhagen University of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Tycho Brahe, the famous astronomer.

A Negro writer, Dr Alan Leroy Locke, has been elected President of the American Association of Adult Education.

Mr J. Bridge, a Gloster test pilot, bringing a Meteor jet plane back from the Paris Exhibition, flew the machine from Le Bourget to Croydon in the record time of 23 minutes 37 seconds at an average speed of 520 m.p.h.

HOME NEWS REEL

EASY FOR HIM. Mr J. Swanson, aged 20, of Aberdeen, who had had no previous flying experience, recently became a fully-qualified civilian pilot in five days.

Britain's oldest postmaster, Mr R. J. Fox of Northfleet, Kent, retired recently within a few days of his 95th birthday.

In Brunswick Park, Camberwell, London, a white blackbird with one dark spot on its tail was seen not long ago. It was followed everywhere by a sparrow.

ROYAL RELIC. A Hove lady bequeathed to a friend "the locket which King Charles I gave to Colonel Tomlinson on the scaffold."

The GWR works at Swindon aim to build this year 110 locomotives, 250 coaches, 1900 freight vehicles, and 240 containers. A further 150 coaches, spacious and with big observation windows, are to be built by private firms.

The miniature railway on Southend pier is to have streamlined trains.

MAKING HAY. At Frenchay, near Bristol, a horse strolled into the vicarage, ate some flowers on the hall table, and then started to go upstairs. The Vicar managed to push it out, but it ate some of his flowers in the garden before departing.

The new general manager of the Old Vic Theatre Company is Peter Barker, who during the war managed the Navy's only floating theatre.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

BRAVE GUIDE. The Guide Gilt Cross for Life Saving has been awarded to 14-year-old Jenny Carmen of the 1st Run-corn Company for her bravery in plunging fully-clothed to the rescue of a boy who had fallen into the Bridgewater Canal Top Locks.

Scouts of the 8th North-West Leeds Group gave a production of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens in an effort to raise money for the Bombed-Out Churches Fund.

The 67th Croydon Scout Troop, for its Christmas Good Turn, entertained children at a local Dr Barnardo's Home.

COURAGEOUS SCOUT. The Chief Scout has awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge to Patrol Second Frederick Greaves, of the Margaret Beaven Hospital Scout Group, West Wirral, Cheshire. Frederick is 16, and for five years has been in hospital, where the staff have the greatest admiration for his cheerful courage and devotion to his Scout duties.

The Children's Newspaper, January 4, 1947.

Spider's Web as a Fishing Net

Who would think of catching fish with a spider's web? The natives of New Guinea, reports a visiting naturalist, do more than think of it, they do it, and make fishing nets out of webs six feet across, the largest in the world.

First they set up long bamboos bent over into a loop, which a New Guinea spider, as big as a cobnut, with long hairy legs, finds so inviting that it spins its web within it. The fisherman has now his net complete, and lowering it into the water, where the fibres are invisible, can bring up fish as heavy as a pound.

The nets, which even a running stream does not break, are of a mesh an inch in diameter at the outer edges, fining down to an eighth of an inch towards the centre of the net; and the fibres are so strong that some fishermen twist them for other purposes into strands as thick as darning wool.

This craft is probably as old as the Stone Age, and is in odd contrast to the use made of the fibres of the common spider in telescopes for the finest cross-lines on the lens when the movements of stars across them is being observed.

STAMP NEWS

AN Australian stamp recently issued commemorates the centenary of Sir Thomas Mitchell's exploration of Central Queensland. The stamp bears a portrait of the explorer's head with a map of Queensland behind him.

SOME collectors have already been able to start building up a set of Italy's new stamps. They are in a beautiful set of eight, in values from one lira to 20 lira, showing impressive views—one the view from the Leaning Tower of Pisa—or reproductions of a few of the famous paintings from Italy's treasury of art.

OTHER new stamp issues are: Russia, a set of five illustrating her industrial drive; and Belgium, a set of five in aid of her anti-tuberculosis campaign.

The Island in the Current

THE remote Island of Stroma, in the Pentland Firth, lapped in the silence of the northern seas, has just been purchased for £3500 by a Yorkshire business man.

Lying about 3½ miles from the mainland, Stroma has 130 inhabitants, whose main occupations are fishing and crofting. Life has not changed much in Scottish Stroma during the last few centuries. There are no cars on the island and no telephone system, but a wireless station enables the people to keep in touch with the mainland when the frequent storms cut off all other communications.

Stroma is rich in sea-myths, which have been handed down since the days of the Vikings. Its name, too, is of Scandinavian origin, and means "the island in the current."

Monkey Nuts and Margarine

TO provide more margarine more ground-nuts, or monkey-nuts, are to be grown.

Hitherto the hot, steaming coastlands of West Africa have been the main area for growing ground-nuts, but now Mr Strachey, the Food Minister, announces that the Government intends to increase our margarine ration by planting them in East Africa. Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia, and Kenya have been found suitable for the production of ground-nuts.

Coming originally from South America, the small, bushy plant has the curious habit of bending over and thrusting its small seed-pods into the ground. There they ripen, and when the plant is pulled up the ground-nuts are found growing like clusters of tiny potatoes.

To extract the oil needed for margarine the nuts are passed between heavy rollers. The soft, pulpy mass which remains provides excellent "cake" for cattle.

ETHIOPIA ON VIEW

THE first Ethiopian Exhibition ever to be held in Britain will be opened by Sir Patrick Abercrombie on January 20, 1947, at 3 p.m. at Foyle's Bookshop, 111 Charing Cross Road, London. It is being organised by the Princess Tsehai Memorial Hospital Council.

There will be many fine examples of Ethiopian arts and crafts on view, and lectures on the country's language, literature, history, and so on will be given on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons until the Exhibition closes on February 4.

It will be open daily, except Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Voices For Export

Some of the 70 children from Cinema Clubs all over London who were filmed and recorded at the Odeon Cinema, Richmond. The film is to be sent to similar clubs in Canada.

TOO MANY EELS

TOO many eels in New Zealand's streams and rivers are spoiling the trout-fishing.

The eels were there long before the British settlers introduced trout. Many tiny trout are eaten by the eels.

So the New Zealand Government is encouraging business firms to catch eels and pack them in cans for export.

Round the Museums

THE PITCH PIPE

THE man in this picture is seen blowing a wooden pitch pipe used in Hertfordshire churches a hundred years ago.

In the absence of an organ,



the pitch pipe was blown to give the right note on which to start hymn singing and chanting. It is in the Hertfordshire County Museum, St Albans.

20,000 GIFTS

FOR the last 20 years Mr and Mrs C. Lucas, of Lenton Abbey, Nottingham, have, as a hobby, made toys suitable for children's homes. They estimate that altogether they have been able to send out no fewer than 20,000 of these welcome gifts.

He Was Admiral and Scholar Too

ADMIRAL SIR HERBERT RICHMOND, who died recently at the age of 75, was an exceptional man in that he was not only a distinguished sailor but also a brilliant scholar.

He was the son of a famous artist, Sir William Richmond, who was celebrated for his work on the internal decoration of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. Sir Herbert Richmond went to sea when he was 14, and won rapid promotion. All his life he made a deep study of naval history and strategy.

When he retired he began a new career, for in 1934 he became a Professor of Imperial and Naval History at Cambridge University, and two years later was elected Master of Downing College, Cambridge. During his mastership, life at the college was as happy as that of his ships' companies had been when he was at sea.

Another Giant Telescope

NOW rapidly nearing the blueprint stage in California is a plan for a giant 120-inch telescope which will be able to probe the mysteries of space 900 million light-years away.

This mammoth telescope may be ready for construction in 1947, but will take four years to complete. It will be situated at the observatory of the University of California on top of the 4900-foot Mount Hamilton near San José. It will consist of a tube 53 feet long and weighing eight tons, and a solid glass mirror, 16 inches thick, resting in a huge 70-ton steel fork. The telescope will be housed under a dome 90 feet in diameter.

America has already a 100-inch telescope on Mount Wilson in California, and a 200-inch telescope is under construction for Mount Palomar, also in California.

THE CRUSADER'S ORANGE

ROMANCE comes in with the return of the Jaffa orange, for Richard Lion Heart tasted them when he spent an interval of his Crusade in the Orange groves of Jaffa; and other Crusaders brought back citrus trees as well as glory. Jewish scribes paid honour to the orange in their sacred books, and it became in the Middle Ages the symbol for the Holy Land.

It was otherwise prized by the well-to-do in Holland and Belgium, and then in England, but

SUNDAY ISLAND

FOR nearly 50 years the little Kermadec Islands, 600 miles north-east of New Zealand, have belonged to the Dominion. But they have had few inhabitants, so the New Zealand Government is founding a new little colony on the largest of them, Raoul or Sunday Island, by bringing brown-skinned labourers from Niue Island to tend the orange trees that have recently been planted there. It is hoped that this plantation will be a regular supplier of oranges to the New Zealand market in a few years' time. Niue is a populous island about 1000 miles north of Raoul Island.

CHANGING AN ELEMENT

A MACHINE called an atomic pile, that will change one sort of metal into another, will within a few months be working at Harwell in Berkshire. Another of these atomic piles is being built.

This was revealed recently by Professor J. D. Cockcroft, Director of Atomic Energy research. He said that a small piece of cobalt (which is one of the elements) left in the atomic pile for a month would acquire properties very similar to radium, another element.

The Ebb and Flow of Glaciers

FROM New Zealand comes the news that the three largest glaciers of the Southern Alps—the Fox, Franz Josef, and Tasman glaciers—are advancing again. During the past seven years they have retreated up the sides of their mountains for from a quarter-of-a-mile to half-a-mile. They have also shrunk in depth from 30 feet to 40 feet.

Now they are showing signs of halting their retreat and of starting to creep towards their former positions.

Old men who have lived near these glaciers for 60 years have seen similar advances and retreats of these ice rivers.



Learning Not to Spoil the Broth

A popular lesson at Lingfield Secondary School in Surrey is the cookery class. These girls are making tasty dishes from ingredients which they bring with them from home.

it was long before oranges or lemons found their way into humbler homes. But Shakespeare knew them well, and the rhyme of Oranges and Lemons, the Bells of St Clemens is as old as the reign of Henry the Eighth.

In the same century Sir Francis Carew built the first English orangery, a luxury for the nobility and gentry alone, for an orangery is expensive to keep up. Sir Christopher Wren designed the stately one in the gardens of Kensington Palace.

A HEALTH PIONEER

EARLY in January 1847, without any fuss, this country's first medical officer of health took up his duties. He was Dr William Henry Duncan, and the place of his appointment was Liverpool, then a borough.

Thus began the great public health services of England and Wales which have developed so splendidly and have meant so much to the nation.

Dr Duncan's chief duties were to inspect and report on the sanitary conditions of Liverpool, and to investigate diseases and their causes. Conditions and the state of the people's health were bad when this pioneer came on the scene. The deathrate throughout the country was 24.7 out of every thousand people; now the rate is about half of that figure. Diseases and epidemics due to impure water and bad sanitation were rife, and the chances of babies surviving their infancy were not good. Even forty to fifty years ago, of every thousand children born 200 died in the first year of their lives. Now the deathrate among them is less than fifty per thousand.

Quiet but Efficient

In the course of a hundred years our public health services have been built up gradually, and medical officers of health now cover the whole country and are looked upon as essential to the country's well-being. They are the men who, quietly but efficiently, give us the means of living healthily, by ensuring pure water supplies, good sanitation, proper care of mothers and babies and by providing many other services.

Today a tribute is due to the memory of the very first of these doctors, who began the good work in Liverpool just a century ago.

Signal School



A railway clerk in front of a demonstration signal at the GWR School of Signals near Paddington Station.

Miracles Do Happen

IF you were to ask Mr Pete Bird of Kentucky if he believes in miracles he would certainly say yes.

One day 42 years ago Mr Bird was chopping wood when a chip flew off and hit him in the eye. A cataract formed and eventually he became blind in that eye. Recently, when Mr Bird was again chopping wood, a chip struck the same eye. It tore the cataract loose and he is now able to see again.

When a Doodlebug Flew Through Tower Bridge



It is the ambition of many a young visitor to London to see the centre roadway of the Tower Bridge split in halves which rise to allow a ship to pass through. Recently the bridge's bascules, as the centre spans that are raised and lowered are called, functioned for the 277,000th time without mishap since the bridge was opened in 1894—a wonderful tribute to the skill of its two designers, the architect, Sir Horace Jones, and the engineer, Sir John Wolfe-Barry.

London's famous landmark, however, had some narrow escapes during the war, and the narrowest was when the strangest of all craft that have ever passed through it, a flying bomb, flew between the two main towers in 1944 without touching them, but hit the Tower Bridge tug, moored near by, causing a tragic loss of life among those on board.

Although the bridge's hydraulic machinery, which raises the bascules, has worked faultlessly for 52 years, it was dislocated in 1941 when a parachute mine landed at the south-east corner of the bridge, and Tower Bridge had to be closed to traffic for a few days. In 1940 a light bomb fell on the footway bridge which runs between the tops of the main

bascule towers, but did little damage. Incendiaries fell on warehouses close to Tower Bridge, starting huge fires which at one time threatened the bridge itself.

The bridge combines the principles of a suspension bridge and a bascule or balanced lever bridge. Its main towers, the bascule towers, stand in the river and are built of steel faced with granite, Portland stone, and brickwork. The two road-bearing bascules themselves are steel leaves 160 feet long and pivoting on steel pins 21 inches thick in the bascule chambers under the main towers. On the rear ends of the bascules are huge counterweights of iron and lead. These help to raise the bascules through an angle of 82 degrees.

The suspension part of the bridge is carried on chains between the two bascule towers and the lower towers on either shore.

Tower Bridge is half a mile long and cost £1,500,000 to build. There is today a staff of 70 or 80 people employed there to work the machinery and keep it in order.

Long may London's famous bridge raise its mighty arms to give passage to Britain's commerce.

LEONARDO'S MASTERPIECE TODAY

THE church of Santa Maria della Grazie in Milan, on the refectory wall of which is Leonardo da Vinci's world-famous painting, The Last Supper, has been restored and reopened to worship after suffering severe bomb damage in 1943. Leonardo's greatest work has survived, though the roof of the refectory and the wall opposite the painting were destroyed.

The picture is one that most people have in their mind's eye as they read the Bible story of the Last Supper; the long table where Christ and his disciples are seated, the looks of horror, curiosity, and fear chasing across the apostles' faces as the Master says "One of you shall betray me."

Leonardo took four years to paint it, from 1494 to 1498, and unhappily he painted it in

tempera—a method of mixing paint with water and glutinous substances—so that as the years passed the painting began to crumble owing to changes in the weather. Attempts to preserve it often did more harm than good and it became only the ghost of a picture—though even so it was still most impressive. D'Annunzio wrote a poem about it called Death of a Masterpiece.

In the early part of this century, however, a skilful restorer, Cavaliere Cavenaghi, was able to give back to it much of its old life.

Since 1943 the picture has again deteriorated because of exposure to damp in a bombed building, and leading Italian artists are making proposals for the difficult work of restoring it.

The world will pray that their efforts may be successful.

The Editor's Table

BRAVE NEW YEAR

THE second full year of peace dawns with 1947, and all the world draws increasing strength from signs that, in Mr Bevin's happy phrase, the sun of peace is rising. Let us count our blessings, both at home and abroad, as we enter this New Year.

First comes the encouraging word of the foreign ministers of America, Russia, and Britain that they are ready to discuss disarmament. That unanimous agreement is an early sign of hope. Before even the peace treaties are finally settled the world's leaders are showing that they are ready to strike at the roots of fear and of war. The most encouraging fact about disarmament is that three great nations are doing the preliminary work together. In previous attempts to disarm each nation thought it was the business of the other nation to do the disarming. Now from the start the chief nations have announced their intention of acting in unison.

ANOTHER source of hope for mankind in 1947 is Unesco—the great world movement to give all men more knowledge, better culture, more books, to dispel ignorance and provide education for all on a world scale. The United Nations are going into the fight against illiteracy. Unesco is to be the universal instructor and in the vanguard of the armies of light battling against the forces of darkness.

At home, 1947 will see the further development of a complete national health service, and in the immense scheme for social well-being which affects everyone in the land. This will mean less anxiety for those who are well and greater care for those who are ill—a mighty step forward for the whole nation.

THIS New Year 1947 will be a momentous year, too, for children. No one after this year will leave school before he is fifteen, and this means the chance to learn more about the lovely and enduring things of life. What is learned after fourteen is probably the most valuable of all, and now the precious year of extra school life will be another of Britain's growing assets, as she faces the years to come.

THERE are vast unsolved problems before mankind and not all of them will be settled in this New Year. But we have every reason to hail 1947 with good hope. Mankind, undaunted by past tragedies and mistakes, is again on the march, to better things.

JUST AN IDEA

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.

Closed Ways

MANY footpaths and bridleways were closed during the war, and so were denied to ramblers, hikers, and all who sought escape from the bustle of modern life.

Speaking at Croydon the other day, the Home Secretary, Mr Chuter Ede, expressed the hope that in the near future all closed footpaths would be reopened. "I am sure," he said, "that if we are to have a reasonably healthy, sane population we must see that opportunities such as these footpaths represent are made available for the general population again as soon as possible."

It is to be hoped that by next spring hikers, young and old, will be able to enjoy the countryside to the full. If walkers are compelled to keep to the roads they miss the best that Nature provides; also, they run bigger risks from motor traffic.

Black Ice Cream

IT is summer now in South Africa and our correspondent there tells us how, recently, a hot and irritable crowd of people, who were waiting outside Cape Town Court room on legal business, were suddenly gladdened by the Court Orderly shouting: "Ice cream! Ice cream!"

What a charming innovation, thought the weary melting throng, ice cream provided at the law court!

But alas! "Ice cream" was merely the name of a dusky native lad who was required as a witness in a case.

NEW YEAR

ANOTHER New Year has begun. Have we the old year's praises sung, And given thanks, For all God's love and care? For leading us in paths of right, Protecting us from evil's might, For grace and faith to keep in sight God's love to us.

Ellen Hainsworth

Under the E



PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If committee meetings pass good resolutions on New Year's Day

ELECTRICITY companies know how to answer those who protest against economy. Give a cutting reply.

IT is difficult to tell just how long a ship will take to reach its destination. A knotty problem.

A HIKER says the hedges are beautiful with dogwood. He recognises its bark.

A GIRL who is learning the piano says she likes to practise six hours a day. Hope her neighbours like it also.

THINGS SAID

THIS generation are the trustees for the future and it is their bounden duty to look after the historic beauty of the villages.

The Earl of Onslow

PUBLIC taste is always better than it is thought to be.

Herbert Morrison

ONE of the reasons for our ability to maintain the only republic of its kind in the history of the world is the fact that we have a sense of fair play and sportsmanship. I think it is inherited from our English ancestry.

President Truman

WE are at the beginning of the building of an international Parliament of Man.

Trygve Lie

BOOK readers are becoming more discriminating, with the result that classics are selling rapidly while thrillers face a future on the shelf.

A London bookseller

GRADUALLY we shall work our way through the age of scarcity into the age of plenty and abundance.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

What's Our Hurry?

MOST of us will remember how the Red Queen in Alice Through the Looking Glass told Alice to run faster and faster—yet they remained in the same place for all their efforts. "We are all very like Alice today," said the Bishop of Leicester recently. "Faster and faster race the cars along our roads, often taking people to places where they do not know what to do when they arrive."

The C N agrees wholeheartedly with these wise words of the Bishop. Every day on our roads this breathless modern craze for speed and more speed leads to accidents which could be avoided. The poet, W. H. Davies, never spoke more truly than when he asked the question:

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?"

Bringing Shakespeare to Life

IN a letter to The Times recently, three writers urged that the Shakespeare plays set for the School Certificate examination by Oxford, Cambridge, and London should be first seen performed on a stage by those entering for the examination. The writers asked whether such plays could not be included in the repertory of existing companies, or some separate theatrical venture be formed for the purpose.

It is an excellent suggestion for, as the writers point out, the true worth of a Shakespeare play cannot be appreciated unless seen.

Shakespeare's plays are living things; certainly they were originally written solely for the entertainment of audiences, but today there is still a danger that young students approach the work of our greatest poet as something horribly dull, to be sighed over and "swotted at" from a textbook.

Lament For the Year

ORPHAN Hours, the Year is dead,

Come and sigh, come and weep!
Merry Hours, smile instead,
For the Year is but asleep.
See, it smiles as it is sleeping,
Mocking your untimely weeping.

As the wild air stirs and sways
The tree-swung cradle of a child,
So the breath of these rude days
Rocks the Year: be calm and mild;

Trembling Hours, she will arise
With new love within her eyes.

January grey is here,
Like a sexton by her grave;
February bears the bier,
March with grief doth howl and rave,
And April weeps—but, O ye Hours,
Follow with May's fairest flowers.

Shelley

WESLEY'S IVY

AMERICA has a Wesleyan University at Connecticut, and recently the students asked, through the British Ambassador in Washington, whether any ivy grew about Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London, and, if so, whether they could have some cuttings.

Ivy is growing on John Wesley's grave, behind the chapel, and some cuttings from this have been taken and sent out for planting in the Wesleyan University grounds across the sea. A tablet will bear this inscription: "This ivy has been propagated by division from the ivy at City Road Chapel to adorn Wesley's living spirit as it has so beautifully adorned his last earthly remains."

Ivy is generally regarded as a symbol of friendship; but in earlier times it was a token of man's dependence on God. Wesley's ivy in America will mean both of these things, and something more, as the tablet will show.

THE BROTHER OF ELIZABETH FRY

MOST of us know the story of Elizabeth Fry who visited the women and children in Newgate and devoted her life to prison reform and other work for the very poor and homeless. One of Mrs Fry's chief helpers in that noble work was her brother Joseph John Gurney, who died on January 4, 1847.

The Gurneys were known throughout the country as the Quaker bankers of Norwich, and Joseph, who, one of a numerous family, was born in 1788, adopted both the faith and the profession of his father.

His religious views prevented his becoming a member of Oxford University, but he studied at Oxford under an eccentric old tutor, who, making him work like a slave, turned him out a first-rate scholar, so that the young Quaker early won distinction as a classical and biblical writer.

Born into a community of pioneers in good causes, Joseph shared the perils that some of them faced for the sake of humanity. Sword he never drew, but with his sister, the immortal Mrs Fry, he faced death from infection in many a pest-ridden gaol, workhouse, and hospital that he visited in her company.

Champions of the Slaves

All over the kingdom he ranged on his mission of mercy, and then into nearly every country in Europe, as fearlessly challenging death as any hero on the battlefield.

A prosperous banker, he became a minister of his church at 30, and combined financial and spiritual activities with the happiest results. At his country home, Earlham Hall, near Norwich, there assembled men illustrious in many public movements, not only Quakers, but leading figures in all denominations, differing in creed but one in devotion to the public weal. Among his visitors were Wilberforce, Clarkson, and other unwearied champions of the slaves. They were the limbs by which the movement advanced; Gurney was of the backbone. He was their business adviser, and his was the hand most liberal in providing funds. Only a man with a genius for friendship could have promoted great house-parties so diverse, so



brilliant, and so harmonious, as for years gladdened his home.

The son of the Bishop of Norwich, Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, later the famous Dean of Westminster, was another regular visitor at Earlham Hall. The Quaker Pope, Stanley always called Gurney in

fun, but also in admiration of a man of singularly fine character and rare ability.

But the host was ever a missionary. The labours that he had performed throughout his own land and Europe he extended to the New World. To a mission embracing Canada, the United States, and the West Indies he devoted a fruitful three years with peace, prison reform, and liberty for all slaves as the keynote of his efforts. On one occasion he was permitted to make one of the American Congress Halls his church, and the President of the United States, together with members of Congress, were among his crowded congregation.

As it is always the busiest man who finds time for something more, so this busy man found time for the writing of books on scriptural and social subjects, his work distinguished by nobility of thought and frequent splendour of language. He lived plainly in order to have the more to give, and was esteemed a perfect example of unaffected goodness and beauty of life. He was only 58 years old when he died, exactly a century ago.

Happy Return

WINTER Promenade Concerts, made popular by Sir Henry Wood before the war, are coming back to delight London audiences as of yore. The same good musical fare will be available, played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and famous soloists, and conducted either by Sir Adrian Boult or Basil Cameron at the Royal Albert Hall every evening at 7 o'clock, on twelve successive weekdays, beginning Monday, January 6.

Led By a Star

THE Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. The word "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning "to manifest," and in the Christian Church means the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles "by the leading of a star," as the Collect puts it.

As the Wise Men of the East were led by a star to Bethlehem and brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Holy Cradle, so in England on the Feast of the Epiphany it used to be the custom for the reigning sovereign to offer these gifts at the altar. This offering is now made at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, by an officer of the Royal Household.

The day of the Feast of the Epiphany is known also as Twelfth Day, or Old Christmas Day. The night is Twelfth Night, when Christmas is over and the decorations must come down, and it was once a time of great merrymaking.

The Young Trio



A tiny visitor to the London Zoo goes for a walk with two baby llamas aged 3½ months and 4 months.

VETERAN CABBIES AT A PARTY

A LINK with the past was severed not long ago when 20 former London horse-cab drivers met at a tea-party held to mark the winding-up of the Cabdrivers' Benevolent Association, which was established in 1870.

Few people under 20 today have ever seen a "growler," as a four-wheeled cab was called, or a two-wheeled hansom cab, but in the days before motors these held the place of taxis. Their ruddy-faced, top-hatted drivers were famous for their witty repartee.

The veteran cabbies at the recent party were as cheerful as ever, and not downhearted at the passing of their old Association, because, happily, the higher wages of modern taxi-drivers and the increased Old Age Pension have made it unnecessary. Since 1870 the Association has paid annuities to its members and their widows.

There are still 52 old cabmen and 24 cabmen's widows who were receiving annuities at the time the Association was wound up, and they are not to suffer for they will in future receive their payments from the Universal Beneficent Society.

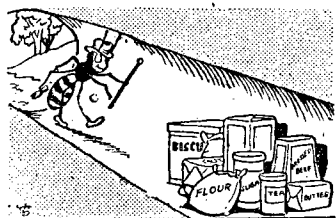
Editor's Table

SERVANTS complain that some mistresses keep the food under lock and key. Better than bolting it.

MANY people do not like loud radio plays. Their reasons are sound.

A MAN says that he believes in people having their own opinions. That is his.

AN artist says still life studies have always been his favourite pictures. He likes them still.



THE grub of the giant wood-wasp bores a tunnel half-an-inch wide. The giant wood-wasp always knows where to find its grub.



THIS ENGLAND

The 14th-century church spire above the village of Weobley, Herefordshire

Scotland's Happy New Year

THE New Year is a great occasion everywhere in the world, a time for good beginnings and brave resolutions. But nowhere is the New Year welcomed in by such varied and curious celebrations as in Scotland. Hogmanay it is called.

The older people usually mark Hogmanay by attending Watch-night Services which are held in almost every church throughout the country. While they pray silently, other Scots bring in their New Year with as much noise and revelry as possible; and in this respect they are carrying on the tradition of their more superstitious forefathers.

In the Highland villages a century or so ago, it was the custom for a man to dress up in a cow's hide on New Year's Eve and, followed by the entire village husbandry, to encircle each house three times while the whole procession shouted at the top of their voices and beat the hide with sticks. Then, entering the house, a blessing was pronounced on it, and as a further safeguard against witchcraft they tied a piece of hide to a stick and singed it in the fire.

Soldier as Father Time

First-footing is another custom still carried out extensively in Scotland. Immediately the New Year dawns revellers set off to visit their friends and wish them a Happy New Year. A man must enter each house first—if possible a tall, dark man—to bring luck. If a woman be the first to cross a threshold on this occasion, bad luck is bound to follow.

Scottish regiments have their own strange way of marking Hogmanay. An old soldier dresses up as Father Time, and as the old year draws to a close he is piped out of barracks on a cart while the youngest drummer boy, representing the New Year, is piped in amid much toasting and many cheers.

The age-old ceremony of Burning the Clavie is still observed in Burghhead. A crate of tarred staves is carried, blazing, on the shoulders of a sure-footed young man, pursued by a cheering crowd. When they reach the top of the hill facing the Moray Firth a bonfire is made with the

remains of the "clavie." This ceremony is thought to be a relic of some long-forgotten faith.

An old custom of drinking the "cream of the water" at midnight on Hogmanay is still practised in parts of Galloway. Wherever a party is foregathered, when the last stroke of midnight has sounded from the church tower, the girls rush to the nearest spring to secure the fortunate draught. Good luck will follow the girl who drinks the first "pitcherful," for at that witching hour the water is alleged to possess a special virtue.

The festival of Up-Helly-aa, the oldest in the British Isles, is celebrated every January in Lerwick, in the Shetlands, where the inhabitants are descendants of the Vikings of old. There is a torchlight procession with the Vikings dressed in gleaming panoplied array. The master of the revels, chosen by popular vote, becomes the Viking captain and must be obeyed. The festivities continue throughout the night and the national toast, "Health to Man and Death to the Grey Fish" is drunk—a link with the days when the waters round the Shetlands were among the world's chief whaling grounds.

Wherever Scotsmen foregather Hogmanay is celebrated with the same revelry and enthusiasm as in days gone by.

CINEMAS FOR CHILDREN ONLY?

It may be that in future years boys and girls will be able to invite grown-ups to accompany them to their own cinemas, instead of being taken to see unsuitable films made for ordinary adult audiences.

There is already in existence a special Children's Film Department engaged in making films for the Cinema Clubs; but now the Ebbw Vale (Monmouthshire) District Council have called a meeting of all interested organ-



Footballers of the Future

Young Sheffield aspirants to football fame receive expert tuition from their coach, a former English International player.

MORE CARE FOR FOSTER-CHILDREN

THE Home Office and the Ministry of Health have issued revised rules about the care of those unfortunate children who are for some reason deprived of a normal home life and are "boarded out" with foster-parents by the authorities.

The revised rules come into effect on January 1. They have been distributed to all local authorities, together with advice impressing on all who deal with these unlucky young people the importance of preserving a human interest in them rather

than merely carrying out bare regulations.

The Boarding-Out Committee appointed by a Local Authority must now have at least three women on it, and must meet not less often than once every three months.

This committee is responsible for finding suitable homes for the children, and, when one has been found, the child must be visited there within a month of his or her arrival, and, afterwards, not less than once every six weeks. A child over nine, however, who has been in a home for two years need only be visited every three months.

A doctor is also appointed to examine the child within one month of his going to his new home, and at least once a year afterwards.

Foster-parents must sign an agreement that they will look after the child and bring him up as carefully and kindly as they would a child of their own.

These wise measures will help to banish unhappiness among those boys and girls who have been deprived by circumstances of the love of natural parents.

AFRICAN JOURNEY

By Car, Plane, Train, and on Foot

AFTER a journey of many thousands of miles Miss Margaret Wrong of the International Committee for Literature for Africa, is back in London.

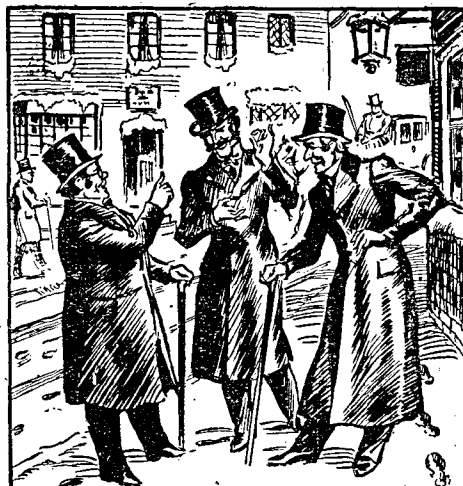
During her travels Miss Wrong travelled by car, train, aeroplane, and on foot, observing the needs of West Africans for books and papers. They are continually asking for more.

Flying for a thousand miles over the Congo forests, Miss Wrong saw the immense wealth of this great area, from which comes much of our precious palm-oil. In Nigeria—four times the size of Britain—she stayed inside the old earth walls of the town of Zaria, where a literature bureau sells books and publishes a paper in the Hausa language which millions of West Africans speak.

At Tamate, on the Gold Coast, she watched the installation of the head boy at the Government school. Welcomed by drums and attended by a bodyguard, the ritual is founded on the same as that for the installation of a chief. Crowned and robed, the head boy promised by God's help "to enforce the standing orders of the school, to obey my masters, to act honourably and justly in all things, and to use my influence for the maintenance of good order, fair play, and harmony in the school."

In this long journey Miss Wrong saw the new Africa which is rapidly striding on to fresh achievements. But there is still much to be done, and everywhere Miss Wrong went she saw the need to improve health and hospital services. Accompanying Miss Wrong was an American of Negro descent whose kin were among those once carried off to slavery. He was greeted not only as friend, but as a relation, and stirred the affection of one audience when he sang *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL—The Great Story by Charles Dickens, Told in Pictures



The last ghost to visit Scrooge, the rich miser, was a dark hooded phantom—the Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come. It first showed him three merchants he knew talking of someone's death. "It's likely to be a cheap funeral," said one, "for no one is going to it," and they all tittered.



Then the ghost showed Scrooge an old clothes shop where two women and an undertaker were selling clothes stolen from the same man, who had died friendless and alone. "Who was he?" asked Scrooge. The phantom took him to a churchyard and pointed to a gravestone.



"Spirit," cried Scrooge. "Assure me that I may yet change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life! I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year!" Then the ghost faded into the bedpost and Scrooge joyfully realised that he had yet time to atone.



He ran out that Christmas morning, astonishing his neighbours by shouting "Merry Christmas!" He sent a prize turkey to Bob Cratchit, his poor clerk, and then went to dinner with his own nephew who heartily welcomed him. Next day he raised Bob's wages and became a second father to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die.

The story in pictures of *Rip Van Winkle*, the man who slept for 20 years, begins in next week's CN

The Children's Newspaper, January 4, 1947

Norway's Waterfalls to Light Our Towns?

TECHNICAL progress in transmitting electric current across the sea may, within the next twenty years, provide Norway with a valuable new export—that of hydro-electric energy. Norway's waterfalls may light many a British town.

Norway is fortunate in possessing great resources of water power, the amount available being estimated at 9,200,000 kilowatts. Yet the amount developed represents only about 16 per cent of the total available power.

At the end of 1943 about 80 per cent of Norway's three million inhabitants had electricity in their homes, including all in towns and 70 per cent of the rural population. About half of the installed power is supplied by State and local authorities, and about half by private works. Only 9.5 per cent of the plants have a capacity of more than 1000 kilowatts, but these supply 93.1 per cent of the total power.

Norway's relatively small population and industry would not warrant a utilisation of all the tremendous resources, and it is for this reason that the Norwegians think of selling their potential electric energy abroad. Sweden, the only country to possess a land frontier of importance with Norway, has abundant hydro-electric power of her own, so Norway must look across the sea for customers. Denmark is, of course, a likely buyer, for she has to import every ton of coal she needs and has hardly any sources of "white coal," or water power.

In November representatives of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden held meetings in Oslo and Stockholm to discuss the question of the export of electric power from Norway to Denmark, and one of the Norwegian delegates stated in an interview that

great progress has been made. "I believe," he said, "that transmission of electric power to Denmark will become a reality."

Asked whether the transmission of electricity to Denmark was technically possible, he said: "Yes, that side of the matter does not present any difficulties."

However, for the export of her electricity Norway thinks also of Britain with her enormous needs of electric power for industry and domestic consumption. Electricity could be transmitted from the generating plants at some Norwegian waterfalls across the North Sea to Britain.

Recently, Lord Forrester, Managing Director of Enfield Cables Limited, together with six other engineers, has been touring Norway to study the latest developments in the field of electricity supply.

"Our visit to Norway has been very interesting," said Lord Forrester in an interview. "Technically it ought to be possible in the next 20 years to export electricity from Norway to Britain by means of high-tension direct-current transmission. There is no difficulty about cables, but it will need about 20 years to develop the necessary rectifying and transformer plants."

"Such a system was planned to run under the English Channel for transmission to France during the war in the event of the destruction of the French power plants."

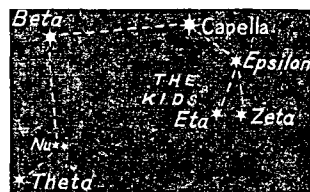
CAPELLA THE GOAT STAR

By the C N Astronomer

A VERY brilliant star may be seen almost exactly overhead at about 9 p.m. just now. This is Capella, known from ancient times as the Goat Star; just as Sirius, the brilliant star in the south-east sky, was the Dog Star of the ancients. This star Capella, is placed at the heart of the celestial Goat, and its name indicates a "little she-goat." She was, according to ancient Roman mythology, the one that suckled the infant Jupiter, chief of the gods.

However, we now know Capella to be composed of two magnificent suns which, though similar to our Sun in character, far exceed it in size and weight. Together they radiate about 142 times more light and heat than does our Sun, one being about four times more massive and the other more than 3½ times.

These great suns revolve round a common centre of gravity which is nearer to the larger sun than the smaller one, in 104 days. Calculations indicate that their diameters are between three and



Capella's position among the chief stars of Auriga (the map should be kept for reference).

four times greater than our Sun's.

An average of 79 million miles divides Capella's two suns, so we see how closely the relative magnitude of their orbits resemble those of the tiny planets Mercury and Venus. But instead of a central sun to control their movements they maintain a perpetual tug-of-war round an invisible gravitational pivot between them. The larger sun, which has the smaller orbit, revolves at the average speed of 23 miles a second, while the smaller sun travels at the average speed of 29 miles a second.

Their enormous distance—2,990,000 times farther than our Sun—prevents us seeing all of these details, but much has been revealed by the wonderful *Interferometer* appliance attached to the great telescope at Mount Wilson Observatory. This first showed Capella as two suns, for previously it had merely appeared as a curious elongated star.

Far away from these great suns of Capella, and at the enormous distance of 1,069,500 million miles, are two more much smaller replicas of those of Capella. They are speeding in the same direction, and are doubtless part of this great solar system which appears to be on a far vaster scale than our Solar System. Together these distant "planetary suns" radiate less than a hundredth part of the light that our Sun does, and, being about 3441 million miles apart, may be great worlds in the making. But their orbits must be on too vast a scale to reveal any motion at their great distance, until they have been studied for many years.

G. F. M.

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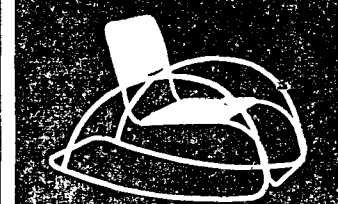


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BEDTIME CORNER

New Year Resolutions

Just to be tender, just to be true;
Just to be glad the whole day through;
Just to be merciful, just to be mild;
Just to be trustful as a child;
Just to be gentle and kind and sweet;

Just to be helpful with willing feet;
Just to be cheery when things go wrong;
Just to drive sadness away with a song;
Whether the hour is dark or bright,
Just to be loyal to God and

A KNAVE'S TRICK

A HUNGRY traveller went into an inn and had a good meal, but when he was asked to pay for it, declared that he had no money.

"But never mind," he said. "I am a travelling musician and I will pay you by singing a song."

"But my business is with money, not music," protested the host.

"Well, if I give you a song that shall really content you, will you take that in payment?" asked the man.

"Certainly, if it really satisfies me," was the reply.

The musician sang several songs without effect, then, opening his purse, as though about to pay, sang, "Out with

your money and pay your host."

"That is the song that contents you, I suppose?" he inquired.

And at the innkeeper's nod of consent, he put away his purse and made off, saying, "Goodbye! I was sure my last song would satisfy you."

Beware of rogues, who are good at playing tricks.

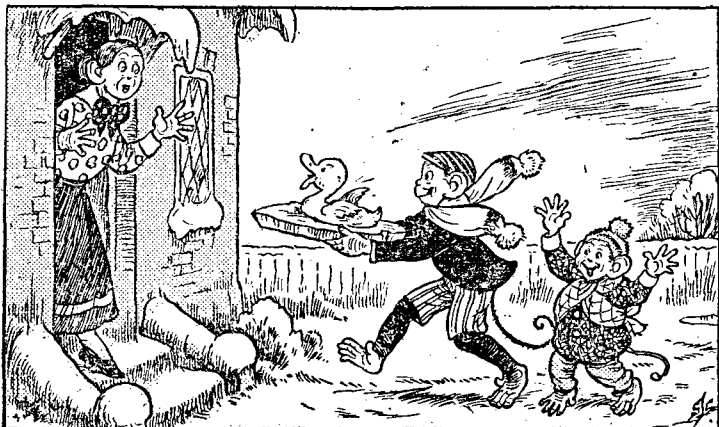
Prayer

LET me not be spendthrift of Thy gifts through the year to come, God in Heaven above, but teach me to make the best of my talents, husbanding them and using them only in Thy service always.

Amen

THE BRAN TUB

Jacko, the Good Samaritan



JACKO was sliding on the duckpond when he noticed a small duck frozen in the ice. "Poor thing," he cried. "I had better see if I can get it out." But the only way to free it was to chop the ice all around and have it thawed out. "Where have you been, ducky?" said Mother Jacko, when he got home. Jacko produced the duck from behind his back. "Which one do you mean?" he chuckled.

MISFIT

SALESWOMAN: This shoe fits you, madam, just like a glove.
Shopper: That's just the trouble; I want something that will fit more like a shoe.

A Plaything For Your Puppy

GIVE your pet a New Year present.

Make him a rag doll, stuffing it with bits from the rag bag, and it will help to prevent his indulging in a natural desire to chew slippers and rugs.

RODDY



"I suppose he does that to make both ends meet, Dad?"

Tongue Twister

SAY six times swiftly:
The short sad sheik shrieked shrilly.

HEALTH IS NATIONAL INSURANCE

and with our Youth Organisations we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Will you please help us? We sorely need your aid. Address: The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLON, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.

St. Marylebone Children's Theatre

PRESENT
"THE MAGIC BAT"
DE WALDEN INSTITUTE,
Charlbert Street, N.W.8.
3 minutes from Lord's :: MAY 27/35
JAN. 14 (mats. 2.30 only) for limited season.
Tickets on sale at the door.

The Eternal Round

SAID the Old Year "I go without moan—
Tired and worn I slip out all alone,
To let New Year step in,
With chimes and glad din,
To twelve calendar months all her own."

FACTS ABOUT BERMUDA

A BRITISH Colony, with representative government, the Bermudas consist of about 350 small islands, 580 miles east of the coast of the United States. Only about twenty of these islands are inhabited, and many are linked together by bridges and causeways, their total area being 19.3 square miles. Population, about 33,000, of which about two-thirds are descendants of Africans. The chief town is Hamilton, with a population of about 3000.

Bermuda has a pleasant climate and delightful scenery and is a favourite winter resort for Americans. Chief products, bananas, potatoes, lily bulbs,

Nothing Left

"You should make it a New Year resolution to be more contented—you are always wishing for something you haven't got!"

"Well, what else is there to wish for?"

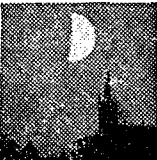
BEHEADING

I AM a head, yet on a head I go—
Of king or queen.
Cut off my tail—a compass point—and, lo,
A bird is seen.

Answer next week

Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn is in the east, and Uranus is in the south-east. In the morning Venus and Jupiter are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at seven o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, January 1.



JUMBLED POETS

CAN you rearrange the letters of each of the following phrases to make the names of five well-known poets?

KEEPS A SHARE
WELL ON GOLF.
ERIC LODGE
WRONG NIB
LO MINT

Answer next week

Too Much to Swallow

SARA: Dick is a glutton—I saw him eat six dishes of ice cream on Christmas Day.

Sue: I expect you are right about the ices, but surely you have made a mistake about the dishes?

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Remarkable Cocoon. In Don's garden grew a fine silver birch tree. Something unusual about it drew Don's attention. On the bark was a small lump about the size of a walnut shell. It appeared to be part of the tree, but Don felt sure it had not always been there.

"It is the Cocoon of a moth," said Farmer Gray, when told of the mysterious lump. "When the caterpillar spins this Cocoon it fixes it to the trunk with a cement which it is able to make. 'Cocoons of this type are weatherproof, and will withstand the elements throughout the winter. In the spring a moth will emerge.'"

and vegetables. In 1940 and 1941 sites in Bermuda were leased to the U.S. as naval and air bases for 99 years.

The islands were discovered by Juan de Bermudez at some unknown date before 1515 when they were first visited by Spaniards, but they were not inhabited until 1609 when a party of British colonists, on their way to Virginia, were wrecked here. Bermuda's House of Assembly, established in 1620, is the oldest parliament in the British Commonwealth outside Britain.

The islands are said to have been chosen by Shakespeare as the scene of The Tempest.

Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, January 1, to Tuesday, January 7.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 A Worzel Gummidge story. Midland, 5.0 A Bobby Brewster story; We Couldn't Leave Dinah; Ballet music. North, 5.0 Brendon Chase.

THURSDAY, 5.0 News From the Zoo. 5.15 The Black Abbot (Part 6). North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song. Welsh, 5.30 Rooketty Crow; Write Down Your Answers.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Kidnapping of Father Christmas; Regional Round. North, 5.30 Nature Quiz.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense. North, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense; More Unusual Young Artists; Pencil and Paper. Welsh, 5.0 Heidi—condensed version of a serial story.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Story of David (No 1). 5.40 A Visit to Bethlehem.

MONDAY, 5.0 Said the Cat to the Dog (No 18). 5.25 Gramophone records. 5.40 Watching Badgers—a talk. Scottish, 5.0 A story; The White Owl; A Trombone Quartet. 5.25 The Musical Toyshop; A Mixed Bag. Welsh, 5.0 Twelfth-Night Party Quiz.

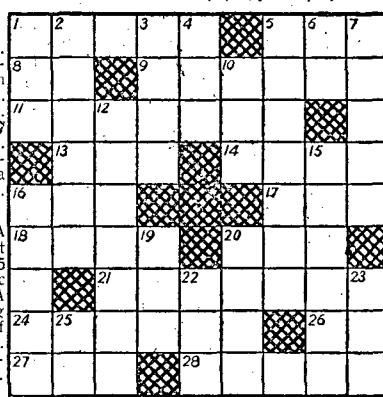
TUESDAY, 5.0 Littlest Boots; a new Competition; Young Artists. Scottish, 5.0 At Home and Abroad.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Neckwear. 5 Work turned out. 8 The three-toed sloth is first-class. 9 That which forbodes. 11 One who disciplines. 13 To retreat hurriedly. 14 Mud. 16 Gives promise of blossom. 17 French for of the. 18 A continent. 20 To fasten with a cord. 21 Two-wheeled vehicle. 24 To ride at a rapid pace. 26 A printer's measure. 27 Organ of vision. 28 Travels.

Reading Down. 1 Rested. 2 A light fleecy cloud. 3 Unwelcome at holiday time. 4 Mirthful sport. 5 Pertaining to a judge. 6 Heraldic term for gold. 7 Cow-houses. 10 A precious stone. 12 Capable of being heard. 15 Whirled. 16 A kind of token. 19 To affect with pain. 20 Used in printing. 22 Milk-provider. 23 A river of Germany. 25 Yes.

Answer next week



More Riddles About Men

WHY are men who cannot pay their bills like birds in the early morning? Because their bills are all over due (dew).

Why is an honest man like a cat burglar in a top-floor flat? Because he is above doing a bad action.

Pithy Proverb

UNHAPPY is he whom nothing pleases.

CENTRAL HEATING

"WHAT do you think, Daddy? The lecturer today said that singing warms the blood." "I quite believe it, for some I've heard made mine boil."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden Characters: Pip; Nancy; Weller; Peggotty; Quilp; Tiny Tim; Squeers.
Jumbled Regiments: Cameronians; Hussars; Cold-streams; Rifle Brigade.
The Careless Shopkeeper £13 6s—£6 13s.

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